

ABSTRACT

An image processing apparatus and a method are disclosed in which images picked up on a plurality of image pickup planes having different distances to a lens are processed. The apparatus and method include: an acquiring element or step for

5 acquiring a plurality of images of a target object picked up on the plurality of image pickup planes; a first computing element or step for computing weights of the plurality of images acquired by the acquiring element; a second computing element or step for computing averages of the plurality of images acquired by the acquiring element; and an image creating element or step for creating an optimum image of the

10 target object by obtaining a weighted average based on the weights computed by the first computing element and on the averages of the plurality of images computed by the second computing element.